CONCERNING PROPERTY RIGHTS.

The Status of Mixed Bloods on Indian Reservations.

Leland, Utah, Feb. 24.—Agent Myton received a letter from the office of Indian Affairs, Washington, dated January 30, 1902, containing the following decisions concerning the rights of mixed bloods on Indian reservations:

"The Secretary of the Interior has decided that the children born of a white man, a citizen of the United States, and an Indian woman, his wife, follow the status of the father as to citizenship, and are not therefore entitled to allotments on the public domain under section 4 of the general allotment act of February 8, 1897 (24 Stat., 388), as amended February 28, 1891 (26 Stat., 794). The property rights of mixed bloods on reservations are fixed and determined by the provisions of treaties and agreements entered into by the several tribes and by general law, and are not affected by the question of citizenship. The act of June 7, 1897 (30 Stat., 90), specifically protects mixed bloods in their tribal property. It provides that all children of a marriage theretofore solemnized between a white man and an Indian woman by blood, shall have the same rights and privileges to the property of the tribe to which the mother belongs or belonged, as any other member of the tribe."

The agent recently enclosed a copy of this circular letter to the Attorney-General of Utah, asking him for information as to the right of these people to vote in Utah, and especially this, "Can a white man who is married to an Indian woman, and the sons of such union, vote in the county in which they live, when the only residence they have is on the Uintah reservation?"

Very few white men are intermarried with Indian women on the reservations in Utah, and we do not know of any such unions in recent years. The Ute women are not given to excursions from the reservation, or even from their wickiups. They are retired in manner, bashful, and do not invite the approaches of white men, and the absence of traces of white blood among these people by intermarriage or otherwise is greatly to their credit.